

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A lubricant circulation system for a rotatable shaft ~~that rotates in a bearing~~, the system comprising:

a bearing having an inner surface and being disposed on the shaft so as to define a clearance between the shaft outer surface and the bearing inner surface;

an oil ring ~~for drawing~~ configured to draw lubricant from a lubricant source and delivering to deliver the lubricant to a the clearance ~~defined between the shaft and the bearing~~, and;

an oil ring slot formed in the bearing for accommodating the ring, a portion of the oil ring extending through the slot in contact with the shaft;

a conduit connected to the clearance for receiving lubricant from the clearance and delivering the lubricant back to the lubricant source, the conduit having an outlet disposeable within the lubricant source such that the conduit delivers the lubricant from the clearance to a lower portion of the lubricant source;

a radially-extending port formed through the bearing and connecting the clearance and the conduit; and

a lubricant feed slot formed in the bearing for collecting a portion of the lubricant drawn from the lubricant source, the feed slot extending axially and radially inwardly from the bearing inner surface so as to be fluidly connected with an axial section of the clearance, the feed slot extending generally axially from the oil ring slot and being angularly spaced from the pressure lube feed port such that a portion of a circulation path extends from the oil ring axially through the feed slot, circumferentially through the clearance, and through the port to the conduit.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Amended) The lubricant circulation system of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein the lubricant in the clearance is transferred to the conduit by the pressure differential between the clearance and the conduit.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

7. (Original) The lubricant circulation system of claim 1 wherein a portion of the lubricant drawn from the lubricant source follows a closed-loop circulation path.

8. (Original) The lubricant circulation system of claim 7 wherein the closed-loop circulation path is defined from the lubricant source, to the oil ring, through the clearance, through the conduit, and back to the lubricant source.

9. (Original) The lubricant circulation system of claim 3 wherein a portion of the lubricant drawn from the lubricant source follows a closed-loop circulation path is defined from the lubricant source, to the oil ring, through the clearance, through the conduit, and back to the lubricant source.

10. (Original) The lubricant circulation system of claim 1 wherein the lubricant source is an oil sump.

Claims 11-28 (Cancelled).

29. (Amended) A lubricant circulation method for a rotary machine, the method comprising:

providing a shaft, a bearing having an inner surface and being mounted about the shaft so as to define a clearance, the bearing having a circumferentially formed slot, a radially-extending feed port, and a feed slot extending axially and radially inwardly from the bearing inner surface, extending axially from the oil ring slot and being angularly spaced from the feed port, a ring extending about the shaft and disposed partially within the bearing slot in contact with the shaft; and a conduit connected with the clearance through the port and having an outlet disposeable within the lubricant source;

circulating lubricant drawn from a lubricant source ~~through a bearing~~ by the ring into the circumferential slot, through the axially-extending feed slot, circumferentially through the clearance between the bearing and the shaft, through the feed port (34) and to a conduit utilizing pressure generated within the bearing; and

circulating lubricant through the conduit and back ~~to~~ into the lubricant source to complete circulation of the lubricant through a closed-loop circulation path.

Claims 30-43 (Cancelled).